

a head position control, responsive to input from the operator, indicating a desired position of the head assembly relative to the surface; and

B1 a driving circuit responsive to the head position control and responsive to the sensor for energizing the actuator to raise and lower the head assembly so that the position of the head assembly relative to the surface as detected by the sensor corresponds to the desired position as indicated by the head position control thereby controlling the relative engagement between the head assembly and the surface independent of the brush length or stiffness and thereby controlling the treatment of the surface by the head assembly.

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19. An apparatus for use on a surface and responsive to an operator, said apparatus comprising:

a head assembly adapted to carry a device for engaging the surface;

an actuator raising and lowering the head assembly relative to the surface;

B2 a position control responsive to operator input for indicating a head position of the device relative to the surface or range of head positions of the device relative to the surface, said head position or said range of head positions indicating a distance or range of distances, respectively, between the device and the surface; and

a controller responsive to the position control for selectively actuating the actuator to maintain the device in the head position or within the range of head positions as indicated by the position control independent of the brush length or stiffness.

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23. An apparatus for use on a surface and responsive to an operator, said apparatus comprising:

B3 a head assembly adapted to carry a device for engaging the surface;

an actuator raising and lowering the head assembly relative to the surface;

a position control responsive to operator input for indicating a repeatable head position of the device relative to the surface or a repeatable range of head positions of the device relative to

the surface, said repeatable head position or said repeatable range of head positions indicating a distance or range of distances, respectively, between the device and the surface; and

*B3* a controller responsive to the position control for selectively actuating the actuator to maintain the device in the repeatable head position or within the repeatable range of head positions as indicated by the position control independent of the brush length or stiffness.

